

Testimony of Janet Bellamy, M.Ed., OTR/L
Before the Children's Committee
Public Hearing March 5, 2013
In Support of RB 6526 An Act Concerning Toxics Disclosure and Innovation for Healthy
Children

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Children's Committee, my name is Janet Bellamy. I am an Occupational Therapist who works with children and their parents. I am testifying in support of RB 6526 because of my concern about the presence of toxic chemicals in consumer and especially children's products. Research increasingly links exposure to these chemicals with the rising incidence of many serious diseases, including childhood brain cancers and leukemia, reproductive disorders, behavioral and learning disorders, adult cancers, asthma, diabetes and even obesity.

This is important to me because, as an Occupational Therapist who has specialized in pediatrics for the past 15 years I have seen an increasing number of children with problems that interfere with family life, play, and school. As we learn more about the effects of toxins on developing brains, I am concerned that we are causing problems by allowing so many harmful chemicals in the environment, without knowledge of what all the interactions could be. At the very least we can work to eliminate some of the worst offenders and allow consumers to be informed when toxic chemicals are present in products.

We know it can be done because the European Union, Maine, Washington, California and Minnesota have already identified chemicals of concern. Certainly our Department of Public Health can utilize these lists to protect the citizens of Connecticut

I strongly support passage of RB 6526 The Toxic Disclosure and Innovation for Healthy Children Act this session as good for our children, our parents, and our economy.

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